Message Text

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IMMEDIATE FOR ALGIERS, AMMAN, BAGHDAD, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, KHARTOUM, RABAT, TRIPOLI, AND TUNIS

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: PORG SUBJ: ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS UNITED ON COMMON TEXT FOR NAM POLITICAL DECLARATION

REF: BELGRADE 5490

1. SUMMARY. ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN BELGRADE HAVE AGREED ON A COMMON TEXT ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINIAN PORTIONS OF THE NAM POLITICAL COMMUNIQUE. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE BASIS OF A SYRIAN-PLO DRAFT WHICH, HOWEVER, WAS AMENDED TO AVOID DIRECT CRITICISM OF THE SADAT INITIATIVE. EGYPTIANS TELL US END RESULT IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF HARSH HAVANA NAM COMMUNIQUE. THE LINK BETWEEN ZIONISM AND RACISM IS INCLUDED. END SUMMARY.

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- 2. AT A CAUCUS JULY 27 OF ALL ARAB STATES ATTENDING THE NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON A COMMON TEXT TO PRESENT TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL NAM POLITICAL DECLARATION.
- 3. THE EXACT WORDING OF THE TEXT IS NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT IT IS KNOWN TO BE LARGELY BASED ON A JOINT SYRIAN-PLO DRAFT,

AMENDED SLIGHTLY TO AVOID DIRECT CRITICISM OF THE SADAT INITIATIVE. ACCORDING TO REPORT IN THE YUGOSLAV PRESS, THE DRAFT HARKS BACK TO THE DECISIONS REACHED AT THE 1974 RABAT SUMMIT OF ARAB STATES, RECONFIRMS THE ROLE OF THE PLO AS THE SOLE AND LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, DEMANDS THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL FROM ALL ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND THE RECOGNITION AND REALIZATION OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION AND AN INDEPENDENT STATE. THE DRAFT REPORTEDLY FURTHER DEMANDS THAT A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS BE CONVENED THIS YEAR TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE.

- 4. MODERATE ARAB STATES SUCH AS KUWAIT AND TUNISIA SEEM TO HAVE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN REACHING THIS "COMPROMISE," WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN THE YUGOSLAV PRESS AS A KUWAITI INITIATIVE. BOTH ARAB "SIDES" APPEAR PLEASED WITH THE RESULT, THE PALESTINIANS SEEING IT AS THE ADOPTION OF THEIR PROPOSALS "ALMOST IN TOTO" WHEREAS EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUTROS GHALI PRAISED THE AGREEMENT NOTING, "BY THIS, EGYPT CHANGES NOTHING IN ITS STRATEGY, SINCE IS HAS NEVER SOUGHT A SEPARATE SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL...IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF AN EGYPTIAN DEFEAT BUT RATHER OF A VICTORY FOR ARAB UNITY."
- 5. SPEAKING TO USUN OFFICER EARLY JULY 28, EGYPTIAN MFA CONFIDENTIAL.

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OFFICIAL AMRE MOUSSA CONFIRMED THAT THE ARAB DRAFT INCLUDES A LINKAGE OF ZIONISM WITH RACISM. WELL AWARE OF US PROBLEMS WITH THIS FORMULATION, HE SAID THAT "ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE" HAD LEFT THE ARAB DRAFTERS LITTLE CHOICE. "ISRAEL GIVES US NOTHING; WE GIVE THEM NOTHING." MOUSSA THEN DESCRIBED THE ARAB DRAFT AS BEING VERY LITTLE CHANGED FROM THE RECENT NAM FORMULATION IN HAVANA.

6. THE DRAFT NOW GOES BEFORE THE FULL POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND THEN MINISTERIAL PLENARY FOR APPROVAL. THERE IS VERY LITTLE CHANCE THAT ANY NON ARAB NAM STATE WILL TRY, LET ALONE SUCCEED, IN AMENDING THE AGREED ARAB POSITION. EAGLEBURGER

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